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Kialegee hosts irst ever heavyweight title fight

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July 2004, 20 Pages

Philpot selected for elite Naval fighter training

OKMULGEE—On June 11, David Philpot was sworn into the United States Navy, specifically into the Naval Air Academy. Philpot will begin his training on December 4 of this year.

Once Philpot enters the Naval base in Pensacola, Florida, he will train with the best in the Nation. Philpot was one of only eight candidates selected nationwide for flight training in the United States. He will also enter Officer Candidate School (OCS) and undergo 13 weeks of intensive physical training at OCS before entering Navy flight school for one and a half

"Where I will be placed all depends on where they (Navy Officials) decide I will best be used," says Philpot. "And it depends on what they decide to train me in specifically."

Personally Philpot hopes to be given the orders of a fighter pilot. Of course the responsibilities of the fighter pilot are very difficult and very critical for the Nation's defense and not everyone chooses this type of work. But this is nothing new to the 23 year old who grew up in the tiny community of Fairland, Oklahoma. He always seemed to have a plan for what he wanted to do.

"I love a good challenge," says Philpot. "Usually the harder something is to do, the more I like trying to do it."

This from someone who completed and passed very highly all the physical regiments of a Navy Seal. Philpot could have gone in the Navy as a Seal. The Navy had only accepted the top 5 officers. "I could have went in as an enlisted man, but that just wasn't the way I wanted to go," said Philpot.

The Navy was still impressed with Philpot who had received his degree in Aviation Management from Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa. Not long after the Navy Seal test, an Instructor from the Navy Flight School called and said they were interested in recruiting Philpot in their flight school. "The Naval Flight called him (David) and said that was the first time that he had called anyone for recruitment into their flight school," said proud father Bill Philpot. Bill is also acquainted with flight, having served in the Army where he flew helicopters in Vietnam.

The son also brags on his Father. "Dad flew helicopters in Vietnam and received the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal," says Philpot. "If you have seen the movie Pearl Harbor at the end of the movie when the pilots are receiving their medals after Doolittle's raid, that is the same medal my dad received."

Housing Authority assists elderly tribal couple



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is constantly seeking new ways to help tribal citizens. One of the ways it does so is through the Housing Authority, now under the direction of Creek Nation. An example of this assistance is the full metal house they provided to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden. This house was the first full metal house to be presented in this pilot program designed to assist the elderly who need new houses. Mr. and Mrs. Gooden were very pleased, saying, "We're going to have to be like the Japanese, taking our shoes off and washing our hands to come into the house." According to tribal administration, this is only a glimpse of the good things to come for the Housing Authority and the entire Creek Nation. For more information about the Creek Nation Housing Authority and its programs, contact them at 756-8504 or (800) 259-5050.

photo by Greg Holuby

Chief Ellis plans to meet with Creek religious leaders

on having a meeting to bridge the gap between the Tribal Administration and the Creek churches and leaders on

Saturday, August 14 in the Mound Auditorium.

During his state of the nation address, Ellis stated, "There are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen that make decia whole regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all

sions that benefit the tribe as Pictured above is Chief Ellis and 13 Mekkos who attended the religious communities. A the ceremonial leaders meeting earlier this year.

above mentioned meeting, to make decisions that will ben-

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis plans efit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all parties involved. "If a Nation is to prosper, we must observe all fac-

tions that comprise the Nation," stated Second Chief Alfred

Berryhill. "We are truly spiritual people and consulting with both ceremonial and religious leaders will beneift all."

As with the meeting with the ceremonial leaders, a round table discussion will be held with every representative given time to voice their concerns and needs of traditional lunch will be served after the meeting.

of us sitting here are statesmen." That's the basis for the For more information about the meeting, contact the Office of the Principal Chief at (918) 732-7605.



Office of the Principal Chief...

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holiday and looking forward to a long hot summer.

The 30th Annual Creek Nation Festival in June was a huge success. I appreciate the great work that the new festival committee did on such short notice. I appointed

the new committee in February so in 4 months they accomplished a great deal. I tip my hat to **Bob Arrington** for his crew for an outstanding rodeo. Over 150 contestants Friday night alone. Cowboys from throughout America and especially the Florida Seminoles made this bigger and better than expected. Congratulations, to the Creek Nation Royalty who were crowned to represent their respective division. I know they will set an example for all future young ladies to follow. A historic occasion was honoring our 3 remaining

original allottees. This was a historic time and I was honored to meet these three women. May they have many more happy years.

I have set a date in August for a meeting of Creek Ministers or Church officials. This historic meeting will take place in the mound building and traditional food will be served after the meeting. Church leaders, preachers, or their representatives are invited to attend to ask questions, make comments and to see what we might do for each other. This meeting will be recorded and video taped for historical records.

September has also been chosen for the next town hall meeting at Tulsa Indian Community Center, bringing the government to the people.

by A.D. Ellis

On another subject, our nation is growing and prospering as changes take place and better programs are started. For the first time this year our children will receive new school clothes the first day of school and not in October or November. This I asked my director to change

for our school children and they did.

Our newest Deputy Director is **Michael Flud**, in Human Development. Mr. Flud was a former Supreme Court Justice for 24 years.

This is my 6th month as Principal Chief and I hope I have made a positive impact on this nation. I now realize how Chief's Cox, Fife, and Beaver had to endure because in this position you are subject to blame for everything including lies, rumors, and untruths. Nothing will keep me from performing my role as Chief in an honorable and respon-

sible way.

How many of you have noticed the new landscaping work being performed at our capital complex. Beautification of our nation's capital is very important and we must be proud of our workplace.

Mid-August is the finish date of the new electronic Creek Nation sign near our complex entrance, that will let everyone know who and where we are.

Again, thank you to our many employee's who make this nation what it is today. Also, to Holdenville Indian Community and chair, **Doug Scott**, for food and citizen's at the June Town Hall meeting. *Myto*.

Quote of the month — What's right isn't always popular, and what's popular isn't always right.

Citizen thanks supporters

Editor:

I would like to thank all of those who ordered the Blue & Gold sausage from me. Thank you for helping support the Western Heights High Band in Oklahoma City.

David Bear, Oklahoma City

Wetumka Church appreciates participation

Editor:

On April 18, 2004 the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church held a community singing and special prayer services for the military.

Churches and individuals that attended and brought special songs were: Wetumka Indian Baptist Church; Taylor Osborn, Wetumka; Sand Creek Baptist; Katie Smith, Okmulgee; Buckeye Baptist; Tina Washington, Calvin; Montesoma; Sue Franks, Holdenville; Tooparfka; Lucille Williams, Clearview; Salt Creek Methodist; Betty Taylor, Wewoka; and Salt Creek Baptist.

Special prayer services were brought by Reverend Wayne Harjo from Buckeye Baptist Church. A birthday song and cake was served for the Pastor of Wetumka Indian Baptist Church, Alec Buck.

Betty Scott, Okemah

please see **LETTERS**..., page 3

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to The Muscogee Nation News, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in The Muscogee Nation News, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of The Muscogee Nation News, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Jennifer Taryole, staff writer
Carla Brown, graphic designer
Joshua Slane, reporter
Wilma Murphy, circulation

Second opinion

Henks Ce. I want to thank all of you that expressed an interest in last month's 2nd Opinion. I believe that you should know the traditions and customs of our people. Our traditions and customs are so rich and in depth that it would

take books to explain every facet of our Nation. Sometimes I don't know where to start. So, I'm requesting that if you have an interest in our custom and traditions, that you send me your questions and I'll try to answer them as best as I can. We do have employees who also have a vast knowledge of our past.

I'm pleased to announce that we are attempting to fulfill the Language Institute Act that was passed by the National Council. Without our language, customs and traditions, we would not be unique and it's important to our sovereignty. I don't know the real percentage

of our people that speak the language fluently, but I do know it's less than 10%. Even knowing the songs is a very important factor.

I don't know how many of you know the various ways our people use to fish for a living. And by, "a living", I mean



survival. Some ways were to use the devil's shoestring, green walnuts in a tow sack, nets, spearing, noodling a bow. There was a law passed by the state that outlawed most of these ways. Especially the use of the devil's shoestring,

green walnuts and nets. The state said that these methods were un-sportsman like. They didn't consider that it was a great part of our heritage, or maybe they did.

I remember when I was just a young boy that my father, **Togo Berryhill**, took me with him on a couple of fish kills where they used a 60 ft. net. They chose a place on the river and several families gathered together to partake of fish that would be caught. Several men would take the net downstream and stretch it across the river and the other men would take clubs and go upstream. After the

men stretched the net and others were in place, a signal was given and the men upstream began to beat the water and start shouting. As the fish began to be herded toward the

please see **SECOND**..., page 3

June District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Security Finance vs. Susanna Barnett
- Kyle Williams vs. Faith Turpin
- Kimberly Bear vs. MCN, Office of Public Gaming & Ronald Hill, Acting Commissioner
- Discover Bank vs. Leona Cravatt aka Harjo
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town vs. Martha Tilly Noon Tomah; Bryan McGertt & Mary McGertt
- MCN vs. \$1,463; Methamphetamine; & 2004 General Motors Hummer – Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture

Protective Orders:

- Doreen Combs vs. Edward Benton
- Lucinda Wilson vs. Minnifee Wilson
- Tonya Young vs. Jon Young

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN vs. Shaneka Durant
- count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
- MCN vs. Daron Harris
- count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
- MCN vs. Michael Spainiard
- count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
- count 2: Poss. Of Illegal Drug

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN vs. Russell Porter
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Donald Billby Jr.
- count 1: Public Intox.
- count 2: Assault & Battery
- MCN vs. Kim Rodgers
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Debra Mahan
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Michael Littlebear
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Walter Washington
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Jonathon Berryhill
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Shayne Holland
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Wendy Phillips
- count 1: Public Intox.
- count 2: Battery
- MCN vs. Monty Stick
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Anthony Barnett
- count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Jesse Felix
- count 1: Public Intox.

Traffic:

• MCN vs. Brandon Winters count 1: Disorderly Conduct

- MCN vs. Brandon Winters
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Kirby Stallings
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Bruce Laughlin
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Fontayne Payton
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Christy Cathey
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Danny Harrington
- count 1: Indecent Exposure
- MCN vs. Price Anson
- count 1: Driving w/o required reg.
- MCN vs. Steve Lanter
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Steve Lanter
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Joe Ben Brown
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Joe Ben Brown
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct • MCN vs. Christopher Cervautes
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Frisco Yargee
- count 1: Reckless Driving
- MCN vs. Frisco Yargee
- count 1: Driving w/o required reg.
- MCN vs. Russell Minor
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Craig Derkach
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct • MCN vs. Lisa Adams
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Robert Lee Johnson
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Marquis Washington
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Marquis Washington
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct. Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Donnell Watashe
- count 1: No Seat Belt
- count 2: No Child Restraint
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Justin D. Plum
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phillip R. Carey II
- count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug
- count 2: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jason Don Richards
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
- count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
- count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
- count 1: Possession of Alcohol
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rashauna Thomas
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct

Second

continued from page 2

net, they would begin striking the net and you could see the men holding the net and there hands would begin flinching when the fish hit the net.

On another given signal, the men farthest from the bank where the women had gathered began to bring in the net. Sometimes it was with great difficulty because of the abundance of fish and the size of the fish. The women were waiting with tubs to divide the catch up and begin to clean them on the spot. The smaller fish were tossed back into the river and some large one's were too. Each family received an equal share of the catch, but before they went home, they had a social dinner where stories were exchange. But, none of the fish were wasted. The men would stretch the net out to dry and then examine the net for holes. Sometimes there were large holes where the big fish and went through.

When the women were cleaning the fish, they would save the air sacks that were in the fish and gathered all the children. They made each one of us swallow an air sack. They told us that if we swallowed the air sack that we would be like the fish and not drown. I don't see anything un-sportsman like because none of the fish were left on the banks to rot. It was a family affair and this kept our people together and helped each other. We didn't want any of our families to starve. Do you think Jimmy Houston shares his fish? I always see him throw it back in.

My mother use to get on to me for eating an ice cream cone while walking down the street she said, "you're not to show off what you have and you don't know who might be watching you and hasn't eaten in days."

May each of you have a blessed month. Hvtm cehecares. Mvto.

Letters

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Gouge family encourages family members to contact soldier

Editor:

Toby James Gouge is a specialist in the United States Army 1st Cavalry Division, currently stationed in Bahgdad, Iraq. Specialist Gouge was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq on January 10, 2004. Toby has served 3 years in the Army and was recently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

He is the son of Marg Gouge and grandson of the late Woodrow Gouge of Oklahoma City. Gouge is Creek and Seminole and belongs to Hillabee tribal grounds.

We are proud of Toby and pray for his safe return. The family would like Toby's e-mail address printed so that family members may contact him. His e-mail address is tobygouge@yahoo.com.

Marg Gouge, Oklahoma City

please see LETTERS..., page 19

Programs & Notices

Transit Authority Survey

OKMULGEE — The June edition of the Muscogee Nation News contained an article pertaining to the establishment of a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority. This is a great opportunity for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its citizens. The survey form below is vital to this project and the information will enable the Transit Authority to plan out a program that will provide for the greatest needs in all areas. Please fill out the survey form and return to: Ben Chaney, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The deadline for survey submissions is August 31.

Native American Rights Fund

BOULDER, Colo. — The Native American Rights Fund will initiate a six-month campaign of print advertisements in the Indian owned and operated Native Voice newspaper located in Rapid City, South Dakota. This marks the first everplanned campaign in alliance with a Native-owned press business.

The Native American Rights Fund is a national nonprofit organization formed in 1970 to assist Indian tribes, individuals and organizations with legal advice and representation on issues of national significance to Native Americans. The Native American Rights Fund is headquatered in Boulder, Colorado, with offices in Anchorage, Alaska and Washington, D.C.

Employment and Training

OKMULGEE — Employment and Training has two existing programs geared to help students attending vocational schools, including OSU-Okmulgee.

The first program is available for residents within the Creek Nation boundary area. Applications are now being accepted through August 13. For more information call (800) 482-1979, ext. 7777 or come by the office to pick up an appli-

The second program is available to enrolled members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regardless of place of residence. For more information call (800) 482-1979, ext. 7773.

Greenleaf Baptist Promotion Day

OKEMAH — Greenleaf Baptist Promotion Day will be held on September 25 from 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. There will be games for children with a focus on ages three through 14. The games will include a sack race, turtle race (bring your own turtle), water balloons, and a cake walk. Also, there will be door prizes, freebies, and pizza. The activities will be located 2 miles west of Okemah on Highway 52 and 1/4 mile south.

School Clothing Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council recently funded a School Clothing Program for all Creek citizen school children by the request of the Principal Chief, A. D. Ellis.

This year, unlike previous years, there are two school clothing programs available, one with income guideline restrictions and one without income guideline restrictions.

Applications may be picked up at your nearest tribal community center or call (800) 205-3705 or (918) 732-7680. Upon request, an application will be mailed to you. Applications should be returned to the community center where they were obtained or mail to: Office of Child Care, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Applicants must be a member of the Muscgoee (Creek) Nation, must be enrolled in school, and must submit income verification to determine which program you qualify for.

Five Year Plan

OKMULGEE—The Children and Family Services Administration (CFSA) five year plan is available for anyone interested, as well as copies of the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families Final Report for Fiscal Years 2000 through 2004.

The Final Report describes accomplishments of the Indian Child Welfare and Promoting Safe and Stable Families Programs during the period beginning October 1999 through the June 2004. The Five Year Plan describes goals and objectives for the period beginning Oct. 2004 through Sept. 2009

For copies of the Final Report and/or Five Year Plan, call (918) 732-7869 or e-mail: eddies@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

5-17-04

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Please return completed survey to your community center or mail to:

Other comments

Would you require a bus with handicap accessibility?

Muscogee (Creek) Nation P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447 Ben Chaney, Transportation Planne

Thank you for taking time to fill out this very important survey

Education

Seventh grader inducted into National Junior Honor

VIAN — Glynna Drew, a seventh grade student at Vian Middle school, has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

The National Junior Honor Society is a national organization with the goal of creating enthusiasm for scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. To become a member of the Vian Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and complete and turn in an application.



Drew

Glynna is also in the State Honor Society and was listed on the Superintendent's Honor Roll this year. She enjoys playing sports and is a member of Vian Middle School's Technology Student Association (TSA), where she and her partner placed second in the mechanical challenge at this year's State Meet.

Drew is the daughter of Yvonne Drew.

Grandparents are Fred and Monta Drew. She is the great-granddaughter of Dave and Ora Drew and the great-great-granddaughter of Peter Roberts Ewing who served in the House of Warriors and was chosen by President Herbert Hoover as Acting Chief of the Creek Nation.

Glynna's great-great grandfather, William Penn McCombs, served in the House of Warriors and on the Creek Nation Supreme Bench.

Acie Patterson

DURANGO, Colo. — Acie Patterson graduated from American schools in homeschooling in 2003. He is cur-

rently attending Fort Lewis College.

He is very active in the Church of Christ in Ignacio, and enjoys playing ice and roller hockey, baseball, volleyball, fly fishing, and golfing.

Acie is currently employed at Home Depot as the head cashier over his department.

Patterson is the son of Stan and Cathy Patterson of

Durango, and the grandson of Gladys Mason and the great grandson of Hattie Stone.

Patterson

He is a member of the bird clan and Tulsa tribal town. Acie plans to transfer to Arizona State University to finish his degree in architect.

Jere Smith

WETUMKA — Jere Smith graduated from the Wetumka High School. His highlights include: honor roll; FCA; FFA; 4-H; football, second team all-district de-

fensive back: baseball/basketball, all conference, allstars, team MVP and nominated Oklahoma Indian Allstate team.

He participated in band and received the John Phillip, Sousa award and Texas/ Oklahoma Leader of Leaders Award.

He is the son of James and Joey Smith and grandson of Charles and Lillie Masengale.



Smith's has signed to play basketball at Southwestern Christian University in Bethany.

Birthdays

Alexander celebrated 92nd birthday

OAKHURST — A birthday celebration was held on June 12 at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church in honor of Rev. William Alexander on the occasion of his Society 92nd birthday.

Rev. Alexander was born June 12,1912 to Robert and Abbie Williams Alexander of Holdenville. Special recognition was given to him by Chief A.D. Ellis and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill.

Many friends and relatives were in attendance, including his dear friends, Rev. and Mrs. George Doyle. Rev. Alexander was honored as pastor, dad, grandfather, uncle and friend. He has served as pastor of the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for 24 years. The event was hosted by his daughter, Mary Sue Peak.

Jennings celebrates fourth birthday with Spiderman

OKMULGEE — Colton Dwight Jennings turned

4 on June 21 and celebrated his birthday at Pizza Hut with a Spiderman theme.

He is the son of Clint and Carrie Jennings of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are the late Gary and Debra Guthrie of Wainwright.

Paternal grandparents are James and Joyce Jennings of Okmulgee.

Clint's aunts and uncles are: Chris and Christie Jackson of Wain-

wright, Bud Guthrie of Haskell, and Jessica Guthrie of Council Hill.

Jennings

His cousins are Cassie and Cheyenne Jackson and Alex Jennings.

Wind celebrated 80th birthday

WELEETKA — Tochee celebrated her 80th birthday on May 31 at the Weleetka Indian Community Center with her four daughters and son-in-laws Eddie and Gretchen Lindsey, Billie Wind, Timmie and Regina Lowe

and Charley and Keselar Mitchell. Her five grand daughters, one grandson three great grand daughters, six great grandsons and one great-grandson were there to help blow out the candles.

Tochee's cake was made like a Bible with "Happy Birthday Mom" on one side and Proverbs 31:10 on the other side with the word Holy Bible on the ribbon in the middle. A rose on



each corner represented the birthday of her four daugh-

Many of Tochee's relatives and friends were there to help celebrate.

Fish celebrates their 56th anniversary

WETUMKA Waitie and Emma Fish, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on June 23.

The married couple enjoy going out to eat and shopping.

They have two daughters Evelyn Pope of Sand Springs and Patsy Fish of Hickory Ridge, 6 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

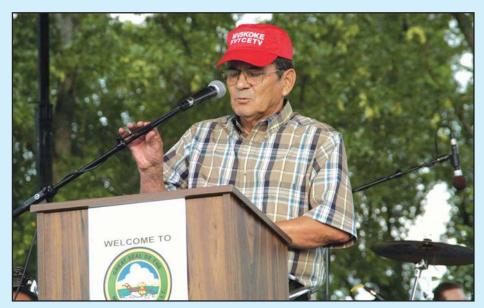


Oklahoma City Creek Association Honors Veterans

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association honored veterans at the June 1, 2004 meeting. Honorees included veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars from all branches of the military. All veterans present were honored, including members of other tribes. The veterans were presented with Muscogee Nation Tribal Seal and American flag lapel pins.

A new activity is the cultural night the second Tuesday of each month with topics that include learning to make fry bread and grape dumplings. The OCMA office hours for social services applications are Tuesdays 9 A.M. through 4 P.M. and Wednesdays, 9 A.M. through 6 P.M. The address for the OCMA is 543 SE 29th in Oklahoma City. For further information contact OCMA at 405-605-2621.

30th ANNUAL Creek Festival



Chief Ellis reviews his plans for the Muscogee Nation Citizens.



A well placed pitch.



Pictured from left, council representatives Rita Williams and Cherrah Quiett promote voter registration.



Tradition being carried on.



Children were eager to learn how to make hand made crafts.



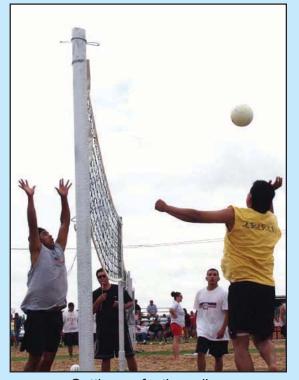
Young athletes worked hard through out the day.



Bullseye!



Young and old joined in the Stomp Dance.



Setting up for the spike.



Strike!



It's not a stomp dance without out the fire.



Friendly game of dominoes.



Wetumka teammates wait their turn for the softball throw.



Bingo caller revealing the lucky numbers.



Many crafts were on display at the Council House Museum.

Ocmulgee Tribal Town equal to a modern day observatory

MACON, GA. — For at least the past 1100 years, the Muscogee people have celebrated Poskita, Green Corn, on the Summer Solstice whereby the Sacred Fire is rekindled and distributed to the households of the people. Until recently, it was not known how the Muscogee people knew when the Summer Solstice started. It has been discovered that the first large tribal town, Ocmulgee, was one enormous observatory. Evidently, their knowledge of math, geometry, astronomy, and land measurement approached or may have even equalled to that of the famous Mayan Civilization. It's quite probable some form of writing existed in order that the knowledge be passed down from one generation to the next.

Three dimensional computer analysis of the Ocmulgee National Monument and surrounding areas have revealed that all of the major structures were precisely located in geometric patterns stretching over a mile wide in order to calculate the movement of the sun, planets, and stars. The discovery was made by Georgia architect and city planner of Creek descent, Richard Thorton. A book, written by renowned University of Georgia anthropology Professor David J. Hally in 1994, hinted briefly that there was an appearance of a precise arrangement and evidence of a standard unit of measurement at Ocmulgee. However, Hally, who studied Native American architecture and visited virtually all the major archaeological sites in North and Central America, did not have access to the advanced computer technology, plus training in graphics and civil engineering that typifies modern day architects.

By interpolating precise three dimensional topo-

graphic and satellite images with the findings of archaeologists in the 1930's and 1940's, Richard Thornton was shocked to find the site as precisely laid out as a modern office park. Further analysis, using a virtual reality computer program from France, revealed that the alignments of the structures would be able to tract the solar solstices and equinoxes, plus probably the locations of various stars, planets, and eclipses. Among other things, his findings were:

Radiating out from *Mound A*, which begun around 900 A.D., were straight lines of structures running absolutely true north and south. There were other lines of structures which ran absolutely true east and west. Other lines of structures were perfectly delineated to points where the sun would rise and set on the Equinoxes and Solstices.

The McDougall Mound and Dunlap Mound were both exactly 3,424 ft. from *Mound A* and exactly one half that distance apart from each other. Another line of structures were placed across the landscape in a line a mile long, which pointed to the rise of the North Star.

One line of structures radiated southward from Mound A for six miles to mark the point of the sunrise on the winter Solstice above Brown's Mound on the Ocmulgee River

Several earth lodges or round underground ceremonial chambers had openings which allowed sunlight in only on certain days, such as February 21.

Presently, the Ocmulgee Fields are in danger. In March 2002, the National Parks Conservation Association placed Ocmulgee National Monument on their list of ten most endangered National Parks. In May 2003, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Ocmulgee one of the 11 most endangered places in America.

The danger to the sacred site comes in the form of highway construction. The first highway constructed across the lands in the 1960's destroyed burials and numerous ancestral sites. Since then, the Swift Creek Mound Complex and a number of other important sites within the Ocmulgee Old Fields have been destroyed. Now the Georgia Department of Transportation proposes to build the Eisenhower Parkway Extension through the Ocmulgee Fields wetlands between the Macon Plateau and Lamar Village units of the Ocmulgee National Monument.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's National Council has formally opposed this route, which is also opposed by the National Parks Conservation Association, the Archaeological Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Sierra Club, the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest, the Georgia Wilderness Society, along with many other organizations and individuals.

One solution would be legislation to incorporate privately donated land and the entire 2,000 acres originally delineated in 1934, as well as additional land in the Traditional Cultural Property District.

To help take action please write to your Congressional Representatives and to Mary E. Peters, Federal Highway Administrator, 400 7th Street S. W. Washington D.C. 20509.

For more information about the Ocmulgee Tribal Town, contact Richard L. Thornton at: Talamachusee Design Studio, 62 Twin Oak Trace, Talking Rock, GA 30175; 706-253-0301; or visit www.native-pottery.com.

Ceremonial Leader Highlight: The late Russell Thompson

There are certain people in the world that stand cine Man and Mekko at Nuyaka. out among their fellow men as simply extraordinary.

One such man was Russell Thompson. He lived his life as a service and example to the people of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Russell was born in 1930 and was of the Bear Clan. During his life he travelled extensively visiting or living in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas, before finally moving into Creek Nation when he took up learning to be a medicine man at the feet of his father, Thompson Sr.



The late Russell Thompson, left, stands with his son,

Russell.

In his role as a medicine man, he served at the Arbeka Tribal Town. Later, he served as medicine man at Alabama, Muddy Waters, and Nuyaka. He left Alabama and Muddy Waters but took the positions of MediHe fought hard against the loosing of the tradi-

tional ways. He taught the language and the ways to those who wished to learn, as much as he was allowed by his positions. He especially worked on teaching the young people to enjoy and participate in the ways of their people.

One of the best attributes he brought to his roles of Medicine Man and Mekko was that he naturally, and selflessly, wished to help others.

"He would go out

of his way to help people, and wouldn't ask anything in return," his daughter Shirley Thompson remembers. "He never turned anyone away, everyone was welcome at his house. If they didn't have anywhere to go they could

stay at his house, people of any color or race."

He served faithfully in his roles until his death in 2000.

Besides being a Medicine Man and Mekko, he was a devoted father and husband. He married Cherokee Wildcat, a full blood Cherokee, in 1954 and they were married until she passed away in 1992. He had 5 daughters and one son, 22 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

When asked, one of his daughter's fondest memories was his laugh, "He had a distinguished laugh," said Deborah Burgess. "Everyone knew him by his laugh. It could be dark and they'd know it was him by his laugh."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The MNN requests article and photo submissions of ceremonial people, both past and present, to be published in upcoming issues. Typed submissions may be mailed or e-mailed to the Communications Department.



A very close race.



Gospel Singing was a hit during the festival.



Young ones were intrigued by the crafts during the art show.



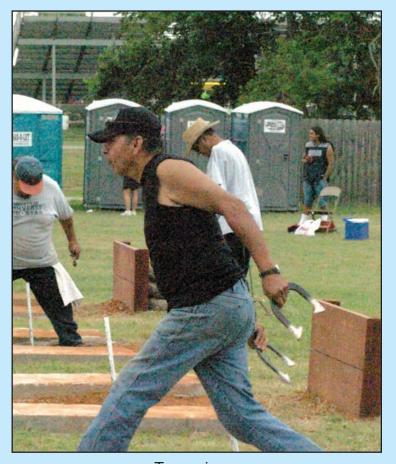
Chief watching the stomp dance.



Allottees pose for a picture.



Tries for a birdie.



Toss a ringer.

Muscogee Division of Health Administration

OKMULGEE — The Division of Health Administration is made up of several programs dedicated to the health care and prevention of our Creek citizens. During our summer months our health care system focuses on our elders and their health.

Elderly Nutrition Meal Program

SAPULPA—The Elderly Nutrition Program is for Native Americans 55 years of age or older. Meals are served 5 days a week. ENP also serves the homebound elders. These centers

not only provide nutritious meals to our elders, but also provide a place for our elders to come together and visit, pass on news and much more.



Centers are located at the following

locations: Bristow Center, 121 West Lincoln Street; Dewar Center, 402 Louella St.; Eufaula Center, 800 Forest St., Holdenville Center PO Box 264; Koweta Center, 141 Ben Lumpkin Rd., Muskogee Center, 111 South Virginia St.; Okemah Center, 110 South Division St.; Okmulgee Center, Hwy 75 and Loop 56 Main Complex; Sapulpa Center, 1020 North Brown St., and Wetumka Center, 608 North Creek St.

Family Caregiver Training

OKMULGEE — Creek Nation Caregiver Program is offering basic skills training to individuals or families who provide personal daily activity care to an elder.

The family caregiver will be presenting basic techniques and tips for giving personal care to elders and providing information for contacting professional services and agencies.

The following is a list of topics offered: how to care for someone on bedrest; how to help someone in a wheelchair; how to manage medications; fall prevention;

and stress/relaxation management.

Eligibility requirements include: the elder being cared for must be Native American; 55 years or older; and live within Creek Nation service area. Skills training is one of several services offered by the Caregiver Program. For more information contact Loretta Wind Jumper, at the Caregiver Program (918) 758-2727.

Diabetes Elderly Activities Program

OKEMAH — DHA Diabetes Program Exercise Manager, Irene Culley, provides diabetes awareness education and physical activities to the elders through the ENP on a monthly basis.

There are 10 nutrition centers within the Creek Nation area. An average of 15 elders have been attending these activities at each center. The Diabetes Prevention Program study showed that elders can benefit more than other groups in preventing the onset of diabetes if exercise is added to their daily lives.

Some of the topics being taught include: diabetes can be prevented; benefits of exercise; and nutrition. The elders learn how to prevent and control diabetes through the educational presentations and learning how to exercise and maintain flexibility and strength. The sessions are held at the nutrition centers during the hours of 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Through the class, "Benefits of Exercise", the elders have been taught how to do chair exercises and use dyna bands for flexibility and strengthening. A video on chair exercise is available to the centers. Groups may start an exercise session on their own.

Walking programs are encouraged at each center and many elders have started walking more on a daily basis. For more information please contact Irene Culley at (918) 623-1424.

Myskokylke P.R.I.D.E. (Prevention and Reducing Indian Diabetes Everyday)

OKEMAH — The Diabetes Prevention and Management Program will be holding 4 diabetes prevention

day camps this summer. These camps will be three days of diabetes prevention education, physical activity and fun. The third day will be a field trip to Big Splash in Tulsa for all participants who attend the first two days.

The camp is free to all ten to 15 year old American Indian children living within the Muscogee (Creek) boundary area.

Camp Schedule is as follows: Okmulgee Clinic Camp, July 19 through 21, at the Okmulgee YMCA; Okemah Clinic Camp, July 26 through 28, at the Okemah 1st Baptist Church; Eufaula Clinic Camp, August 4 to 6, Eufaula Boarding School; and Sapulpa Clinic Camp, August 9 through 1, location to be announced.

For more information and a registration packet, please contact Scott Robison at (800) 219-9458, ext. 456

Dental Clinic Receives Award

OKMULGEE — The Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service granted an award to the Okmulgee Dental Clinic for providing service to the highest proportion of the user population for fiscal year 2003. The Okmulgee Dental Clinic also won this award for fiscal year 2002.

This award demonstrates that the Okmulgee Dental Clinic offers the highest access to care for their patients. The Okmulgee Dental Clinic competed with a large number of dental clinics ranging from Lawrence, KS to Lawton.

Native American Diabetes Awareness Camp

WEWOKA — Enjoy traditional summer camp activities, native story telling, native arts & crafts, while learning how to prevent diabetes. Guest Speaker for the camp will be Actor Steve Reevis, Blackfeet. The camp will be held at the Wewoka Woods Camp Grounds on July 25 through August 1, for ages eight to 14. Native Education and Health Initiative Inc.is sponsoring the camp. For more information please contact James Bokovoy at (918) 284-9284.

Doctor's Note

From the office of Dr. Lawrence Vark, DHA CMO

OKMULGEE — Despite mild June weather we have had here in Oklahoma, sooner or later we will be having true summer temperatures. The high temperatures and humidity that exist in Oklahoma can result in conditions dangerous for our citizens.

What happens to the body as a result of exposure to extreme heat? People suffer heat related illness when the body's temperature control system is overloaded. The body normally cools itself by sweating. Under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. In such cases, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs. Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing

the body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions that can limit the ability to regulate temperature include old age, youth (ages zero to four), obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug use and alcohol use.

What is a heat stroke? Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106 degrees or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.

What should I do if I see someone with the warning signs of a heat stroke? Have someone call for immediate medical assistance. Get the victim to a shady area. Immerse victim in cool water or spray the victim with a garden hose. Wait for emergency assistance to arrive.

DHA Updates

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System is pleased to announce the addition of two new physicians to the medical staff. Dr. Denny Parton and Dr. Jim Harjo. Dr. Parton began his employment on July 1. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He did his post graduate training in family practice. Parton is a member of the Western Delaware Tribe. He will be practicing at the Okemah facility. Dr. Harjo is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He will be practicing in the Okemah facility.

The Sapulpa clinic has underwent major renovation work. Space has been expanded from 6,600 sq. ft. to 15,000 sq. ft. The DHA is continually striving to improve the healthcare system for the citizens. Currently, plans are being made to extend clinic hours.



Hopeful player hopes to keep his team ahead.



Volleyballers playing hard for First Place.



Player looking for the long drive.



Future bullrider holds on tight.



Okfuskee staying cool under the hot sun.



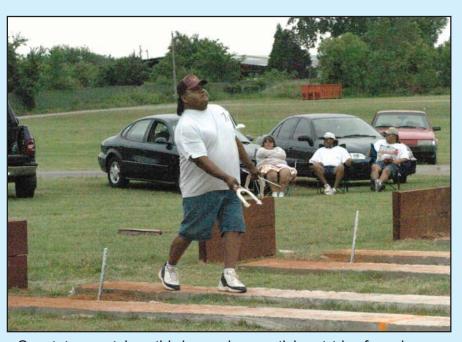
Horse and trainer give thanks to the crowd.



2nd Chief at the Hymnal Singing.



Chief Ellis participates in grand entry.



Spectators watch as this horseshoe participant tries for a ringer.



Volleyballer serves up.



Cowgirl gives barrel racing her best shot.



The rain didn't stop kids from getting on the slides.



Uptown Horns put on a good show for the festival.



Many kids participated in the calf scramble during the rodeo.



Fires in a throw from outfield.



Defense is a must in basketball.



The runners anticipate the sound of the gun.



I hear a ringer.



Ladies fast pitch put on quite a show.



Second Chief Berryhill waves to the crowd along with princesses.



Chief Ellis poses with the 3 remaining original allottees.



Many tried there luck during the elderly activities bingo game.



Many participated in the Creek hymnal singing.

Dayle James for Sheriff

Retired Sheriff Dayle James announces his candidacy for Sheriff. After retiring from the Sheriff's position in June 1999, I have been asked numerous times by many different people to run again.



Qualifications:

I offer more than 15 years of Law Enforcement experience with a proven track record in overall management and administration including: Okmulgee County Sheriff, Oklahoma State Trooper, Legislative Liaison, Investigation, Drug Enforcement, Jail Management, Planning, Budgeting, Supervision, strong management skills for reorganization of operations, implementing management controls, and developing strategic plans, experience and administering budget, forecasting and purchasing experience. Highly effective abilities in establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with various law enforcement agencies (chiefs, sheriffs, OHP, OSBI, IRS, DEA, FBI and special task forces), district attorneys, Creek Nation Light Horse.

Continuing Education:

Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Successfully completed 20 courses (167 hours) Oklahoma City 1992-97, including: Gangs and Awareness Legal updates, Homicide Investigation, Domestic Disturbances, Mental Health, First Responder, etc...

National Sheriffs' Association, Graduate of 1993, An executive-level development course designed for first time sheriffs focusing on administrative, employee training, criminal justice and constituent group issues, Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma City, OK- Oklahoma Highway Patrol School (16 week course).

Law Enforcement Experience:

Morris Police Department 3- 2004 to 5-2005, Okmulgee County Sheriff 12-1991 to 6- 1999, Named to the Jail Task Force to study the state's county jails and sheriffs' offices, Department of Public Safety 10-1972 to 10-1980, Assigned to Okmulgee County.

Professional Organizations:

National Sheriffs' Association-Legislative and Crime Prevention Committees, Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association-Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, Northeastern Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association-President for 3 years, American Jail Association, District Attorney's Council, Drug and Violent Crime Board and for the State of Oklahoma- The board distributed \$6.5 million in grants to local and state agencies (annually) for 4 years.

While I was Sheriff, I wrote grants and received monies for these grants. I hired two deputies to teach the DARE program and one deputy to work with the neighborhood watch programs. I also hired a deputy to work Crimes Against the Elderly, another deputy to work Domestic Violence Intervention and one as a trash cop deputy.

If I am elected sheriff, this door will always be unlocked during business hours. I retired Sheriff Dayle James, always told myself and employees that we serve the people of Okmulgee County. This means you, the citizens of Okmulgee County, are our boss! I promise you, as your employee, that we will work for you. Make your vote count July 27th, 2004!

Paid for by Dayle James Campaign PO Box 275 Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Together We Can Make A Difference!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BILLIE BURDEN

WELEETKA — Funeral services for Billie J. Burden were held June 25 at First Baptist Church with Rev. Pascal Bevan and Rev. Bob Shoemake officiating.

He was born May 24, 1926, to Andrew Jackson and Augusta Stephenson Burden. He was born, raised, and attended school in Weleetka. He married Mildred Croney on March 15, 1944 at the Allen Freewill Baptist Church. She passed away on October 15, 1979. Billie later married Dorothy Coleman on September 30, 1983.

Burden worked for seismograph as a driller for three years. He then went to work for PSO for 40 years as an engineer retiring in 1980. He served two terms on the Creek Nation National Council. Billie was the founding chairman of the Creek Nation Agribusiness board. He was very proud of legislation he started which provided clothing to Native American children, which is still in effect today. Burden was also involved in getting legislation passed which increased health care and burial benefits. Billie was on the Creek Nation Hospital Auxiliary Board and a PSO job steward. He was a long time member of the Allen Freewill Baptist Church also serving as a deacon.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing, camping, traveling, gardening, and music. As a young man he sang in a quartet on the radio in Henryetta. Billie was a champion roper and loved horses and horse racing, cattle, and game fowl.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his sister, Geneva. Survivors include: wife, Dorothy, of the home; three children, Toni Wisner of Okemah, Steve and Phillip, both of Weleetka; three step-children, Susan of Weleetka, Ronald and Elizabeth Barnett, both of Oklahoma City; twenty-two grand-children and step-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery.

JEWELL DOWLING

EUFAULA—Funeral services for Jewell Mae Dowling were held June 26 at New Arbor Baptist Church with Rev. Ernest Best officiating.

She was born to Zenas Thomas and Evelyn Jean Dowling on November 18, 1960 at Kansas City Missouri. She attended Eufaula Public Schools and graduated from their in 1978. She loved doing paper work and loved helping her family and friends with there taxes or what ever paper work they had to do. At the time of her passing she was attending Conners Jr. College majoring in computer sciences and business. Dowling was a member of the New Arbor Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were: her grandparents, father, and brother, Bill Rice. Survivors include: mother, Evelyn Dowling, of the home; daughters, Becky of Tulsa and Amy Mayhew of Muskogee; sons, Zackery Mayhew of Eufaula, Zeb and Isiah Grazioni of Muskogee; brothers, Charlie of Stidham, Zenas Thomas Jr, Sandy, Robert, William, Thomas Dowling, all of Eufaula; sister, Sandy Herndon of Eufaula; and granddaughter.

Pallbearers were: Steve Smith; Jackie Jones; Chane Pettit; Timmy Jones; Doug Reynolds; and Michael Deere.

Interment was at the Mellett Cemetery.

LILLIE GOUGE

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Lillie M. Gouge were held at Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Wesley

VanMeter and Rev. Judson Deere officiating.

She was born December 14, 1925 in Hanna to Lucy and Sam Butler.

Lillie retired from Neiman-Marcus department store

Preceding her in death were: her parents; husband, Tom Gouge; three brothers, Andrew, Robert, and Wiley Butler; and one daughter, Joan Gouge.

Survivors include: two daughters, Wanda Campos of Dallas, Texas and Betsy Taryole of Henryetta; son, Tom Gouge Jr. of Henryetta; nine grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and one sister, Liza Mitchell and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery.

CHARLES PALMER

TULSA—A memorial service was held June 23 at the Church of Latter Day Saints for Charles Wesley Palmer.

He was born June 24, 1925 and passed away on June 19.

Survivors include: wife, Mary of 50 years; daughter, Ruby Hayward; sons, George and David Palmer; two granddaughters; and one great granddaughter.

Gratitude

We the family of George Cook would like to say *mvto* to Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Creek Nation Social Services, Creek Nation Light Horsemen Tribal Police, Thlopthlocco Methodist Church, Children of St. Paul United Methodist Church, and Creek Nation Color Guard for all the prayer's and donations, food, plant's and kind words during the loss of our dad, husband, grandfather, and uncle.

Also we would like to give a very special mvto to Rev. Scottie Harjo, Rev. Harry Long, Leroy Harjo, Leona Zink, Allen Yargee, Minnie, Connie, and Lillie Ann Johnson, Betty and Gail Smith, Prairie Spring Indian Baptist Church, Springfield Methodist Church, Montesoma Indian Baptist Church, and members of Alabama Ceremonial ground for all your kindness, prayer's and support and hard work.

George Cook family

A special gratitude is extended to Rev. Amon Harjo for officiating the service and those who assisted with the service Rev. Joshua Harjo, Rev. Norman Daniels, and Rev. Sydney Lee.

Our appreciation is extended to Chief A.D. Ellis for coming by to pay his respect to the family. *Mvto*.

We express our deepest gratitude to the many friends and relatives for your prayers, calls, flowers, food and acts of kindness. Thank you for embracing us during our time of sorrow. We will remember you with the deepest admiration and affection. Bless each and everyone of you . We shall cherish the memories.

We were truly blessed by those who sung the Creek hymns. Myto for the beautiful singing. We express appreciation to Anna Jo Fife, Elouise Factor and Rena Whitecloud for the special songs sung during the service. Thank you Jake Jackson and those who sung Amazing Grace at the cemetery.

We are grateful to Elsie Lowery, Alene Barnett, Delores Herrod, Evelyn Bucktrot, Norma Berryhill, Flo Tanner, Betty Lawhorn, Pauline Gourd and others who prepared the food.

Veronica King Scott family

Letters

continued from page 2

Woman expresses opinion

Editor:

I read with much interest the article entitled "Chief Ellis and his administration hold meeting with Ceremonial leaders." I was surprised and saddened to find out that of the 44 tribal towns removed from our original home, only 16 ceremonial grounds remain, and Peach ground is struggling with membership as I write. To me, this is shameful and we should do our best to hold onto our culture. Much has been lost over time, but we can hold onto what is left by giving them our support and our presence. These leaders should be commended.

I want to say first of all, although I am a Mvskoke/Yuchi Christian, I totally support the significance of the grounds in the lives of the people. I absolutely do not feel it is wrong to participate in the ceremonials, and I encourage folks to become involved with it. Native ministers and ones in leadership in the churches also should encourage their people to search out their roots...not to go out and "convert" someone, but to forge friendships and let them know we're not against them. It was a European way of thinking that says if you are a Christian, you cannot belong to a ceremonial ground or vice versa, and this thinking created the schism between the ancient ways and being a Christian. We were taught to alienate ourselves from our own people if we adopt the Christian faith. That is not the Myskoke way, and if you truly search the Scriptures, it is not the Christian way. Christianity was made synonymous with adopting a European way of life by the early missionaries and making us to forget our traditions and language. I do not believe Jesus (Hesaketvmvse) ever wanted this. You do not ever see white folks depriving themselves of their culture or feeling bad for being active with it (such as the German-American society of Tulsa, Norwegian club, people of Scottish descent, etc.). Believe me, they would not give up their traditions for the church, yet that is exactly what the missionaries and the government expected us native peoples to do.

I am proud to say my father who has since passed was Mvskoke, of the Alligator clan, and Coweta tribal town. My mother is Yuchi/Mvskoke, and we have found out her grandmother, Nicey Coonhead, was of the Bear clan, which I am glad to claim. I would not mind attending a ground, as I have two very young sons who can learn our ways. But I would not know which one to attend or how to find out which one is my hereditary ground. Any helpful comments can reach me at nativegirl17710@msn.com or P.O. Box 65, Sapulpa, OK 74067.

In conclusion, my interpretation of the Bible is this: we are not to separate ourselves from our own people, but to encourage and support each other whether we are in church or at the ceremonial ground. Jesus lived with His people, went to their weddings, danced with them, ate with them, worshipped with them on their terms, and at the end of His life, He went to His death believing His death would save them. This does not sound like One who wants to destroy my culture or language. Anyway, just wanted to let those men know I support the ceremonial grounds and their right to exist and continue into the future. We need to give them our support in every way possible. **Kathy Irwin, Sapulpa**

Shop talk with Gerald

Hope everyone is having a good sports filled summer. So many games, so little time it seems. But whether you're a full fledged athlete who forgets about everything but that weekend's tournament or just some one who likes to laugh, joke and play a summer's evening volleyball game after church, just have fun doing it.

Interesting article in the July 4 edition of the Sunday Daily Oklahoman. The article, Native Americans Overlooked, by staff sportswriter Jenny Carlson, spotlighted Native American high school athletes who certainly have the skills to go to the next level, but unfortunately because of social and academic problems see their dreams fall to the wayside.

The article, which was well-written, explained not only how Native Athletes would quit college because of alcohol, home problems or felt they just didn't fit in, even talked about how Indian athletes would come home from college and be teased about being an apple. You know, we've all heard it, red on the outside, white on the inside. Or the crab philosophy about grabbing someone who may be having success and pulling him back down.

After reading the article, this mediocre athlete can't help but think back to his college days. Believe you me, I certainly wasn't there because of any college scholarship. The University of Oklahoma was my educational choice. Although I was fortunate enough to receive some financial help from the tribe and an academic scholarship, I also got a job at the library and did a little janitorial work to help pay for extra costs. As Indians always do, we, the OU Indian students, began to socialize and hang out together. One of the skins, who was first a part of this group in the early fall, was attending OU on a cross-country scholarship. I was quite impressed with his credentials and told him so. He didn't seem very talkative, nor did he seem to care for the attention. A full ride athletic scholarship is impressive anywhere! Anyway, after the first full week of classes were over, he was gone.

Other buddies of the circle said that he was just ready to go home, maybe he didn't like the school, or maybe it was the coach. Regardless of whatever his specific reason for leaving was, a free education was simply thrown away.

I'll allow myself a little time on the soapbox and say in a nice way, what a shame it was to just simply quit as this talented Indian athlete did. We, as Indian people, have just too much skill and ability to just simply let it all go because we don't like something that is only temporary.

Indian athletes, show the world what you got. Don't quit and allow outside influences always to shape you, your world, or your thinking. Because if you do, others will always control you. Ultimately, the blame for failure won't be on others, it will be all on you!

Tiger reflects back about a game for the ages

OKLAHOMA CITY — It truly was a game for the ages. Documented as the longest game in Oklahoma All Indian Men's Fast-Pitch Championship history, 19 innings of ath-

letes playing hurt, sick, dehydrated in 103 degree weather in July, back in the summer of 1977.

The event of course was the annual Oklahoma All Indian Men's Fast pitch tournament in Oklahoma City. The tournament, which is currently in its 52nd year, is a tournament of national prominence and showcases Indian athletes from all around the country.

One survivor of that championship marathon contest of '77 was George Tiger, the starting pitcher for the Florida Seminoles. The team was made up of members from a team originally called the Haskell Indians. "Our coach forgot to take care of the entry deadline and the Florida team only had 2 players," said Tiger. "So we kind of jumped in there with them."

If the championship game wasn't long enough for Tiger and his teammates, the path they had to take just to reach it was

"We played on a Friday night," remembers Tiger. "Unfortunately, in our first game we got beat by Turkey Springs."

Exposure to a tournament of this magnitude was nothing new to Tiger and his teammates. They were from all over and had been playing together for some time.

"We only played a couple of tournaments a year together,"

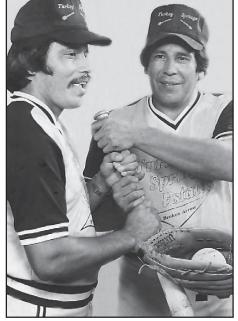
says Tiger. "Most of our players were from Kansas, California and Florida."

Although the team was made up from far and wide, their

popularity was well known to the softball faithful having won this same tournament in 1973 by allowing the least amount of runs in tournament history. The team only gave up one run with a tournament bracket that included 100 teams that year.

"After the first loss," says Tiger of that 77 tournament, "we got together and had a team meeting. We knew we still had a chance, but it would be a big challenge."

The team would have to play 5 games on Saturday, only one loss away from elimination in this double elimination tournament. The team would buckle down and win all five. But there was still Sunday's round and the team would have to play 7 games in a row just to make it to the Championship. They played back to back to get to the Championship game where they faced the Sapulpa



Pictured above is Grover Wind and Bob White of Turkey Springs.

Bucks.

With the score deadlocked at one at the end of regulation play, 12 more innings would be played until Kenneth Tiger of the Bucks popped a shot up the middle driving in the runner from second base. The final score was 2-1. The Bucks won, but both teams received a standing ovation in a historic game for the ages.

Center hosts first ever heavyweight title fight

WETUMKA — The first ever no holds barred turn out. USA Native American Championship Title was held on

Saturday, July 21. The event, Thunder Rumble II, was held at the Kialegee Family Center in Wetumka.

The Native American Championship Title, which was sanctioned by the United States Muay Thai Association (USMTA), was competed for by USMTA ranked competitors Tommy "Danger" Gouge and Redcloud Anquoe.

The contest Redcloud defeat Tommy Gouge in the first round by way of submission.



Anquoe after winning the championship belt.

"We were pleased with the turnout of our first

Native American title fight," said Wolf. "We are planning to use this fight as a foundation for having other events in various areas throughout the Creek Nation."

Results of other fights included on the card were: John Fry defeated Logan Shirell by unanimous decision; Daniel Ramirez won over Randall Maluf by technical knock-out; Chuck Carr knocked out Eric Willis; David Tyler received a unanimous decision over Dusty

Miller; and Philip Bateman decisioned over Jeremy

The event was held in part by Wolf Promotions, owned by John Wolf. He was quite pleased with the